

REMARKS

The claims have been amended by this preliminary amendment to more clearly recite the claimed embodiments.

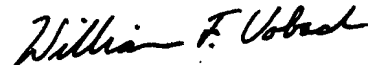
5

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite
10 prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



William F. Vobach
Reg. No. 39,411

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
WFV:klb
DE 7099798 v1